

A Brief History of Christ Church



MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Christ Church was founded in 1546, and there had been a college here since 1525, but prior to the dissolution of the monasteries, the site was occupied by a priory dedicated to the memory of St Frideswide, the patron saint of both university and city.

St Frideswide, a noble Saxon lady, founded a nunnery for herself as head and for twelve more noble virgin ladies sometime towards the end of the seventh century. She was, however, pursued by Algar, prince of Leicester, for her hand in marriage. She refused his frequent approaches which became more and more desperate. Frideswide and her ladies, forewarned miraculously of yet another attempt by Algar, fled up river to hide. She stayed away some years, settling at Binsey, where she performed healing miracles. On returning to Oxford, Frideswide found that Algar was as persistent as ever, laying siege to the town in order to capture his bride. Frideswide called down blindness on Algar who eventually repented of his ways, and left Frideswide to her devotions.

Frideswide died in about 737, and was canonised in 1480. Long before this, though, pilgrims came to her shrine in the priory church which was now populated by Augustinian canons. Nothing remains of Frideswide's nunnery, and little of the Saxon church - perhaps a few stones - but the cathedral and the buildings around the cloister are the oldest on the site. Her story is pictured in cartoon form by Burne-Jones in one of the windows in the cathedral. One of the gifts made to the priory was the meadow between Christ Church and the river; Lady Montacute gave the land to maintain her chantry which lay in the Lady Chapel close to St Frideswide's shrine.

Of the various buildings which compose Christ Church, the oldest is the 12th-century collegiate cathedral, originally the conventual church of St Frideswide's priory. Almost as ancient as the cathedral, and on its southern side, is the Chapter House, part Norman but mainly 13th, its interior stone walls now clad in a protective covering suggestive of tiles. It contains the diocesan treasury and the cathedral shop. The cloister was rebuilt in about 1499, and the former monastic refectory, which forms the southern boundary of the cloister, housed the college library from 1561. After the New Library opened in the 18th century, the refectory building was converted into residential rooms. This nucleus of ancient priory buildings, much restored and altered, is all that escaped demolition when, in 1525, Wolsey set about his ambitious scheme for Cardinal College.

EARLY DAYS

Christ Church was the thirteenth of the present Oxford colleges to be founded. The foundation was a complicated process and took, in effect, 21 years to complete. In 1524, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey obtained a bull from the Pope for the dissolution of the Augustinian St Frideswide's priory which occupied this south-east quadrant of the city. The area around the priory was then occupied by private houses, inns, churches, the Oxford Jewry, and Canterbury College (one of the monastic colleges which was used by the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury). The demolition of all the buildings on the site began in 1525, with the construction of the new Cardinal's College, as it was originally called, taking place on a grand scale as areas were cleared. Wolsey, however, fell from power in 1529, leaving his magnificent scheme unfinished. His plan centred upon the great Gothic quadrangle known as Tom Quad which, measuring 264 by 261 feet, is the largest in Oxford. Three sides of the Great Quadrangle were virtually finished, but only the foundations of the chapel which Wolsey intended for its north side were visible. Still, Wolsey had taken care of the physical well-being of his students: the Hall - the work of two of the greatest craftsmen of the time; the mason Thomas Redman and the glazier James Nicholson - and the kitchen were both complete by 1529, and have not been fundamentally altered since although the great hammerbeam roof in the Hall had to be replaced in the 18th century after a fire caused by choristers attempting to burn the Christmas decorations in the fireplace. Wolsey laid down a constitution for his new college which included eight canons, a schoolmaster and choirboys, as well as undergraduates, but he left behind neither a library nor a new residence for the head of his college, and he created no link between his college and any particular school.

After Wolsey's fall and death, Henry VIII soon took over the fabric and endowments of Wolsey's foundation and re-designated them 'King Henry VIII's College'. An extraordinary, 'limbo' institution, it led an undistinguished life until 1546 when Henry designated the former priory church as Christ Church cathedral of the new Henrician diocese of Oxford, and as the chapel of the new college of Christ Church. A new endowment, completely different from that of Cardinal College, was made in the Charter of Dotation (11 December 1546), but the foundation charter (4 November 1546) laid down only the cathedral establishment, and Henry died before statutes for his new and unique foundation could be drawn up.

Christ Church soon established a method for its own administration, but the style of its foundation was completely different from that of other colleges with their masters, fellows, and undergraduates. Christ Church, as a joint cathedral/college foundation, had and has a Church of England dean at its head, with most of the cathedral canons taking an active part in the college's daily life. In fact, until the middle of the nineteenth century, the Dean and Chapter *were* the governing body of the college as well as the cathedral. Christ Church did not, though, have fellows; instead it had a body of 100 Students. The Students were ranked in two classes of discipuli (junior Students still reading for their BAs), two ranks of philosophiae (Students finishing their BAs and taking their MAs), and a single rank of theologiae (the most senior Students). All of these men received a stipend from the endowment which increased as they climbed the scale of seniority. Of course, not all Students climbed right to the top; there were certain conditions one had to fulfil if one wanted to receive the stipend: a Student had to take degrees within a reasonable timescale, he had to remain single (only the canons and the dean could be married), he had to take holy orders, and he could not take a position which paid a living wage. Students were not obliged to do anything, nor did they have to stay; many men had careers lined up in the church, in law, or in government; others had country estates to run, and still others joined the military. And so, as young men gained their degrees and left college, there were spaces for new people to fill

the ranks. At the very beginning, it would seem that there was no intention to have conventional, fee-paying undergraduates, but these appeared straight away; 4 commoners turned up in 1546, 9 in 1547 and, by the beginning of the 1550s, they were arriving in a steady stream.

Under Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I, Christ Church shared in the fates of the English church; under Edward, the continental reformer Peter Martyr Vermigli was nominated to the Regius Chair of Divinity, and took up residence with his wife, both departing, along with the first dean, Richard Cox, who was an ardent Protestant, on the accession of Mary. Richard Marshall, a Catholic, took Cox's place as dean and was charged by Cardinal Pole to exhume and dispose of the body of Peter Martyr's wife. Marshall did as he was told, and Katherine Martyr's bones remained in the dung-heap behind the deanery until 1560 when they were reburied, along with the newly discovered bones of St Frideswide. Marshall presumably also oversaw the degradation of Archbishop Cranmer which took place in Christ Church on 14 February 1555.

Many Oxford colleges have links with specific schools - New College with Winchester, for example - but Christ Church had no such attachment until, in 1561, Elizabeth I set aside awards from Westminster School to be tenable at Christ Church and our sister college in 'the other place', Trinity College, Cambridge. After this date, a number of Students, usually 4 each year, were chosen on the basis of an examination to be Westminster Students. The Studentship was often given to those in financial need but there was no real advantage to being a Westminster Student, as opposed to an ordinary or 'canoneer' Student, until the 18th century when various trusts had been set up in their favour. At the same time as Elizabeth was establishing the Westminster Studentships, Christ Church began to create a library for the burgeoning academic body.

The Tudor and Stuart periods were the great age of Royal Visits to Christ Church. Elizabeth I came twice, on one occasion taking the whole of the east side of Tom Quad as her residence and requiring everyone else to give up their rooms to accommodate her court. She attended plays in the Hall which, at her first visit in 1566, cost £148. In 1583, she sent a Polish visitor, Prince Alasco, here with instructions that he be entertained. William Gager wrote the plays for the prince's pleasure, and they were produced by George Peele.

James I does not seem to have made much impact on Christ Church except for his choices of dean. All three men - John King, appointed in 1605, William Goodwin (1611), and Richard Corbet (1620) - were renowned preachers and Corbet, a humorist. Perhaps the college needed the peace and pleasantries of the later part of Elizabeth's reign and of her successor's to survive what was to come in the 17th century. Its numbers grew during the early Stuart period, and Peckwater Quad began to assume the shape we know today in order to accommodate new arrivals. In the cathedral, the beautiful painted glass by the van Linge brothers was installed. Only one whole window - the Jonah window in the north aisle - survived the Puritan commonwealth although there are fragments in other windows particularly up in the clerestory of the north transept.

CIVIL WAR and COMMONWEALTH

Parliament and King Charles came to Oxford, and Christ Church, in 1625 to avoid the plague and, in 1629, returned on a formal state visit, this time residing in Merton College. The college and the university were to pay dearly for its loyalty to the Crown.

During the Civil War, Charles I made Christ Church his capital; he resided in the Deanery, his parliament assembled in the Hall, his privy council met in the canonical lodgings west of the Hall, and the cathedral was the scene of the weddings and funerals of members of the court. Tom Quad was used as a parade ground for soldiers and, in the meantime, cathedral and college tried to carry on as usual. The college and the Dean suffered the intrusion of the court, but not always quietly; when rations for members of college were reduced, a petition was raised complaining that the food was not sufficient particularly when so many of the Students and commoners were carrying arms for the King.

Whether through real difficulties or opportunism by tenants, rents were not coming in as regularly as they should from the college's estates; numbers of undergraduates were falling, and, in common with all other colleges, Christ Church was required to 'lend' the King money. The college was falling into financial difficulties although, just as war was breaking out, the dean, Samuel Fell, installed one of the most beautiful features of Christ Church, the most delicate fan tracery above the stairs to the Hall. .

When the King was finally defeated, the Dean was sent to London, imprisoned, and deprived of the deanery, and his wife and children were forcibly removed from their residence by the Parliamentary Visitors, who purged Christ Church of delinquents, even down to those almsmen who had fought on the Royalist side.

Samuel Fell was succeeded as dean by the presbyterian Edward Reynolds, and the Independent John Owen, Oliver Cromwell's protégé. Owen, who served as vice-chancellor, as well as dean, seems to have been a remarkable man; unafraid to put his head over the parapet, he dressed flamboyantly, raised and led his own troops from within the university when necessary, and showed tolerance with the university's Anglicanism. Christ Church owed to Owen's friendship with Cromwell the fact that its lands were not taken away, and both college and cathedral survived remarkably well throughout the Commonwealth, except for the Puritanical destruction of the beautiful painted glass by van Linge by Canon Wilkinson who, just as the windows had been removed for safety, allegedly jumped on them. Numbers of students hardly changed through the Commonwealth, and the canons who ran the college and cathedral were able men who maintained the educational vigour of Christ Church. Edward Pocock particularly is remembered for the huge and vigorous plane tree which has grown in the garden behind the Priory House since the 1640s.

THE RESTORATION

After the Restoration, Christ Church, along with the rest of Oxford began to pick up the pieces. College estates were surveyed to ensure that income was maximised, and new undergraduates were sought among the rich and influential. John Fell, who as a boy had been ejected from the deanery twelve years earlier, became dean; he ruled Christ Church firmly, closely supervising the work and conduct of undergraduates, and was the only man who (after 1676) ever combined the positions of Dean and Bishop. Fell's influence across the university as a whole was immense. He was evidently not universally liked, but it was he who completed Tom Quad, finishing Wolsey's scheme in its original early 16th century style, and restored the canons who had been excluded after the Civil War. The college and cathedral returned rapidly to pre-war styles of administration and worship; the Chapter Book is full of resolutions and rules restoring the old order. Fell also resolved to make Christ Church a place to educate the governing classes and to be a prop of the monarchy; he and his canons showed themselves subservient to the monarchy's every wish even, in 1684, complying with a royal mandate to expel John Locke, probably the most distinguished thinker ever to enter Christ Church and, in 1685, summoning a troop of Christ Church undergraduates to fight for James II against Monmouth. It is interesting and ironic that during the eighteenth century, when Locke's writings were less than popular across the university as a whole, Christ Church included them as an integral and important part of the curriculum.

It was during Fell's deanery, in the 1660s, that the foundations laid on the north side for Wolsey's college chapel were filled with two-storeyed residences for canons. These were built to match the earlier ranges, which have small doorways with decorated spandrels, and alternating one- and two-light windows. At the same time, the terrace was laid out and, in 1670, the reservoir in Tom Quad was installed; a gift of Richard Gardiner, one of the canons, whose house was destroyed during a disastrous fire. A representation of Mercury, which had replaced the original fountain in 1695, was removed in 1817 by an errant undergraduate later to become the Prime Minister, the earl of Derby. It was not until 1928 that the present statue, a lead copy of Giovanni da Bologna's Mercury, was placed on a pedestal designed by Lutyens (interestingly one of only two works by Lutyens in Oxford). The earth excavated to create the terrace was used to build up the Broad Walk on the Meadow.

Killcanon was built as a replacement house for Gardiner, and a small block called Fell's Buildings was constructed. Fell also installed the balustrading on the St Aldate's facade (the battlements on the inside were not installed until the 1860s by Bodley and Garner, who also added the pinnacles to Hall) and, on a much grander scale, he commissioned Christopher Wren to build Tom Tower, to complete, at last, Wolsey's gateway. Built in 1681-2, and funded partly by a £1000 gift from the King, Christopher Wren aimed that the tower, '... ought to be Gothic to agree with the Founder's work', and his ogee-topped tower blends convincingly with the early C16 masonry. The tower houses great Tom, the recast bell from Oseney Abbey. Weighing seven tons and over 7 feet in diameter, Tom was moved from the cathedral spire to occupy the new tower. Famously, the bell rings 101 times every evening at 9.05 to commemorate the original 100 Students plus the extra one added to the foundation in 1663. The tower gate is the original, and in the fan-vaulted ceiling of the gateway are 48 coats of arms commemorating some of the distinguished college benefactors including Wolsey, Henry VIII, and Charles II.

John Fell's death in 1686 gave Christ Church a severe test of its loyalty to the Crown - James II nominated as Dean the Catholic John Massey. Massey's appointment was an unhappy one

for Oxford generally as new students stayed away in droves. On the news that William of Orange had landed in England, Massey departed hurriedly. His place was taken by the then sub-dean, Henry Aldrich, Christ Church's most convivial and, perhaps, most 'Renaissance' dean. Aldrich was a polymath - interested in art, music, architecture, science, logic - as well as being a pleasant man. Admissions increased steadily, and the number and status of undergraduates required the reconstruction of the buildings of the former Peckwater Inn; Peckwater Quadrangle with its nine staircases was opened in 1707, Staircase IX being assigned to a canonical stall. The quadrangle was named after a medieval Oxford family, one of those members, Robert Peckwater, gave Peckwater Inn to St Frideswide's priory. Each of its three sides has fifteen bays, rusticated to first-floor level with huge pilasters above. The central five bays on each side have giant columns and are topped by an enormous pediment. Some of the grandest rooms in college are on the first floor of Peckwater Quad, and would originally been occupied by gentlemen and noblemen. Now, all students' rooms, after their first year, are allocated by ballot.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

The harmony, musical and metaphorical, which marked Christ Church during the reign of Aldrich disappeared with the arrival of his quarrelsome, and frequently absent, successor, the Tory (or Jacobite) Francis Atterbury, appointed in 1711. Although there was a run of short-lived deans, perhaps the greatest building work carried out at Christ Church since Wolsey was begun in the early years of the eighteenth century: the construction of the New Library. A new library had become necessary to house the great collections of books left by successive benefactors - Dean Aldrich, Dr Stratford, the Earl of Orrery, and Archbishop Wake (see the enclosed sheet on the history and development of the Library). The future Dean Gregory, as canon-Treasurer, supervised the internal decoration of the New Library in the 1750s, and was also responsible for a change in the fenestration of the hall, where the sixteenth century glass was replaced, except in the west window, by glass of eighteenth century plainness.

The Hall had already housed the great collection of portraits of Deans and other college members which made, and make, it a portrait gallery of rare importance. The New Library was almost complete when problems of storage and display once more became urgent with the bequest by General John Guise (d. 1756), once an officer in Marlborough's army, who left to the House the collection of remarkable drawings which he had acquired as well as Old Masters of various Italian schools. This vast bequest (contested by the Guise family) was housed in the ground floor of the New Library, the design of which had to be changed to accommodate the collection. Originally the Library was planned to have an open loggia at ground floor level but around 1760, the plans were changed to close in the downstairs and turn it into a gallery. The completion of the New Library was followed by the conversion of the Old Library, originally the refectory of the St Frideswide's priory, into undergraduate rooms. The other new residential building of the eighteenth century was Canterbury Quadrangle, which replaced the buildings of the former Canterbury College, and was built by the munificence of Richard Robinson, Archbishop of Armagh, later Lord Rokeby. Completed in 1783 by James Wyatt in a style reminiscent of Peckwater but on a much more modest scale, Canterbury 4, in particular was designed to be a residence for Christ Church's most noble undergraduates.

Another considerable benefactor was Dr Matthew Lee, by whose aid was built the Christ Church Anatomy School (1766-7), now usually known as the Lee Building and used as by the Senior Common Room. The Anatomy School conducted all sorts of studies into animal and human remains; bodies were acquired from the prison for dissection, and were then returned for burial. The recent excavations at the castle site in Oxford have revealed some quite grizzly activities.

The early part of the 18th century also saw the decoration of Tom Tower with the statue of Queen Anne by an unknown sculptor, which was set up here in 1706 by Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford.

In 1768, William Markham became dean. He and his successor Bagot were singled out for honourable mention by Gibbon in 1791 as 'the late Deans' under whom at Christ Church 'learning has been made a duty, a pleasure, and even a fashion, and several young gentlemen do honour to the College in which they have been educated'. The eighteenth century is traditionally considered to be a time of academic laxity in Oxford, but the evidence from Christ Church shows otherwise. The grand building schemes might suggest that Christ

Church was a place merely for the rich and powerful to be entertained or to make contacts; however, collections records (the termly accounts of an undergraduate's reading) show that academic pursuits were pursued as vigorously as ever. Of course, there were the duffers, the social climbers, and the hunting brigade, who paid just to be at Oxford for the social scene and to fill in time before inheriting the family estates, but there were also men of great learning and erudition. The same has applied to all generations! Under Aldrich at the beginning of the century, and then under Markham and Bagot towards the end, academic standards here were high, and the curriculum varied.

But it was Bagot's successor Cyril Jackson (1783-1809) who created a legend. The son of a Yorkshire doctor, he loved a lord, and loved to make everyone - whether lord or commoner - work 'like a tiger', as he enjoined the future prime minister Sir Robert Peel. Christ Church had already begun to produce MPs in quantity, and Prime Ministers (sixteen between George Grenville in 1762 and Sir Alec Douglas-Home in 1963) naturally followed including Lord Liverpool and William Gladstone. Among the products of Jackson's Christ Church came a succession of Governors-General, later Viceroy, of India; the first was Marquis Wellesley, Governor-General from 1797 to 1805, and the last Lord Halifax, Viceroy from 1925-31.

Jackson, if mimicry is a compliment, was much loved and appreciated in spite of his authoritarianism; His censors and tutors were said to imitate his mannerism and dress. He also followed with interest the later careers of his undergraduates, furthering them through influence over Christ Church men in power. An impressive statue of this impressive man - carved by Chantrey in 1820 - stands, or rather sits, in the Ante-Hall.

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Jackson was one of the prime movers in the creation of a new University examination system at Oxford, and in its early years members of Christ Church took many first class degrees. This continued under his successors until 1831 but Thomas Gaisford (Dean 1831-55), though personally a distinguished Greek scholar and an important curator of the Bodleian Library, set little store by the new University system, having faith rather in college examinations, and the college's showing in the class lists became undistinguished. Gaisford was also rather a snob; the social distinction between the ranks of undergraduates was strictly enforced during his deanery and, as a consequence, men of merit either did not come to Christ Church or did not rise to Studentships as perhaps they should.

Gaisford had no time for reform of any kind but, after his departure, reformers of the 1850s produced an Act of Parliament which was to have disruptive effects on Christ Church in the time of his successor, H.G. Liddell (1855-91); two of the canonries were abolished and all save one of the remaining six (as we have today) were attached to professorships. The body of Students, as yet all former undergraduates of Christ Church, found themselves excluded from appointments to canonries which were consequently filled to a greater degree than previously by 'squills' - that is, those who had never been undergraduates at Christ Church. This made the monopoly of the government of Christ Church by the dean and canons harder to bear. An agitation begun in 1863 led in 1867 to the *Christ Church (Oxford) Act* which changed the whole constitution of Christ Church, vesting the government in the Dean, Canons, *and* Students (who now took on the same role and status as fellows in other colleges), and providing statutes for the first time in the college's history.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, Christ Church made many of the changes common to all the colleges which created the modern system of Oxford undergraduate education. Tutors saw their pupils individually, introducing the tutorial which is held now to be the pride and joy of an Oxbridge education. Scholars, who made up about one third of undergraduates, were selected by a competitive examination from among the ablest of 18 year old school leavers (though only men, of course!). The curriculum was expanded from classics and maths (which had only been introduced as an individual subject in 1805) to include natural science, law, and modern history (in 1850), English (in 1893), and modern languages (in 1903). Gradually Christ Church appointed teachers in these new subjects and even established its own laboratory for the scientists (this was created out of the Anatomy School when the anatomical specimens were transferred to the new University Museum). Tutors were, at last, permitted to marry which meant they could settle and make careers out of teaching - rather than using it as a fill-in before taking up another appointment, usually, before the twentieth century, in the church. Sports clubs were founded and facilities were provided such as the barge for the Boat Club. The cricket pitch was laid out in the 1860s. Although still a cathedral foundation, Christ Church began to admit non-Anglicans and, from the 1890s, more and more students began to arrive from abroad.

On the buildings front, the later nineteenth century saw the restoration of the long-neglected interior of the cathedral by George Gilbert-Scott. In 1862-5 Meadow Buildings, a Venetian Gothic construction by T.N. Deane, was put up to accommodate on site more and more of the undergraduates. Tom Tower was adorned with its statue of Cardinal Wolsey, and the belfry tower at the east end of the Hall was put up to house the bells which could no longer safely be hung in the cathedral spire.

The belfry was among the many Oxford targets for the wit of the best known tutor of Liddell's day, C.L. Dodgson, the friend of the dean's daughter, Alice, and author of *Alice's adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the looking glass and what Alice found there*.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Dean Strong (1901-20) was the first dean to take an active interest in the cathedral choir, which under him began its ascent towards ever higher standards. His personal involvement with the choir particularly, nurtured the young William Walton, whose first compositions were made here as a pupil at the Cathedral School.

Christ Church in the early years of the twentieth century was, though, an aristocratic place of Edwardian grandeur with undergraduates such as princes from Siam, Serbia, and India; Prussian and Russian Tsarist nobles; English aristocrats and businessmen; and American and Greek plutocrats. The Steward's Office even invested in shares in the Russian railways but all this was swept away with the First World War. In spite of the oddities of the war - once again the quads echoed to the sound of soldiers; the undergraduates were bided their time before call-up; refugees were given accommodation; and officers made severe inroads into the Common Room cellar - Dean Strong aimed to maintain 'business as usual'. After the war, undergraduates returned in huge numbers to complete their interrupted degrees but they were joined by many military men who would not, in the pre-war years, have had a chance of a university education. Never before had the college been so mixed, so democratic, or so full. But perhaps the biggest change in the student body during the 20th century was the admission of women in 1980. There had been much debate in Governing Body but many who remember the arguments comment how quickly women became part of the scenery. Within a very short space of time it seemed that they had always been here, and Christ Church soon had as many female students as male.

Through the twentieth century the numbers of both undergraduates and post-graduates has increased. The decline of availability of affordable lodgings for them in the city of Oxford has led Christ Church, like other colleges, to erect new residential buildings. Blue Boar Quad, built in the 1960s, to the designs of Powell and Moya, consists of a number of identical units separated by narrow bays and featuring square buttresses of Portland stone. St Aldate's Quad, across the road from the main frontage, was completed in the late 1980s, and the Liddell Building, shared with Corpus Christi College, was constructed in the early 1990s down the Iffley Road to the south of the city near the college and university sports grounds. Additional rooms have been created in Meadows Buildings, in Tom Quad north of the main gate, and to a lesser extent in Peckwater Quadrangle by dividing some of the bigger sets. Most students can stay in college accommodation for the duration of their time here, should they wish. Most, too, participate in extra-curricular activities; clubs and societies are as popular and as numerous as ever. Almost every sport is accommodated either through the university or the college, and there are, for example, debating societies, drama groups, music societies, art classes, dancing teams, religious groups, even fencing classes and a tiddlywinks club.

The Guise bequest of paintings, originally housed on the ground floor of the New Library, now hangs, together with another benefaction, in a modern picture gallery. This ingeniously planned building was designed by Powell and Moya in 1964-7 and, faced with coarse rubble, stands unobtrusively at the east end of the deanery garden, and has been recently listed by English Heritage. Access to it is through Canterbury Quad.

The Picture Gallery has enabled the New Library to be devoted entirely to housing books and readers; there is also a law library (opened in 1976 and currently undergoing complete refurbishment), a music room, and an art room.

Christ Church is not, perhaps, as renowned for its gardens as other colleges. As Tom Quad is, in effect, the cathedral close, the gardens behind the residences are private. The Masters' Garden, clearly visible from the Meadow, is available only to members of college and their guests, and the Pocock Garden - containing the famous tree - is a recent creation for the benefit of college and cathedral staff. The Memorial Garden, though, laid out in 1926 in memory of those members of the House who died in the First World War, forms the main access for tourists visiting the college and cathedral.

The corporate title is The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford of the Foundation of King Henry the Eighth.

This text owes much to the entry by Dr J.F.A. Mason in *The Encyclopaedia of Oxford*, (1988) edited by Christopher Hibbert. Other sources include:

Bill, E.G.W., *Education at Christ Church Oxford, 1660 - 1800*, (1988)

Bill, E.G.W & Mason, J.F.A., *Christ Church and reform, 1850 - 1867*, (1970)

Hiscock, W.G., *A Christ Church miscellany*, (1946)

Trevor Roper, Hugh, *Christ Church Oxford: the portrait of a college*, (1989)

Thompson, H.G., *Christ Church*, (1900)

Dr Mark Curthoys (co-editor of volumes 6 & 7 of the *History of the University of Oxford*) put right much of the piece on C19 Christ Church, particularly on the curriculum and its expansion.

UNTANGLING THE JARGON

The University, and Christ Church particularly, abounds with strange words and odd expressions which become second nature to everyone who works here. To the rest of the world, though, these can sound obscure and even give the impression of elitism. However, most are just the product of centuries of evolution. The list below explains just a few of the words.

Battels	The fees paid by students for board and lodging
Bedel	An attendant to the Vice-chancellor on official occasions
Blue	The highest sporting achievement of the university given to members of certain sports clubs who compete in the annual Varsity match for their sport
Bulldog	A member of the university police - recently disbanded
Caution money	A type of insurance payment against breakages or defaulting paid at the beginning of one's time at college, and repaid on going down
Censor	A Christ Church term for the senior members of the academic staff who take on an administrative and disciplinary role for a limited period. The same position as Dean in other colleges.
Class	A category of an honours degree, in the sense of 'first class', etc.
Collections	Informal, internal examinations designed to test a student's progress
College	At Oxford and Cambridge, the colleges are independent institutions which provide teaching, and board and lodging. The title of first

	college is fought over by University, Balliol, and Merton Colleges. Among the most recent is Kellogg College which specialises in graduate courses for part-time mature students.
Come up	To arrive at Oxford, either for the first time or at the beginning of each term.
Common Room	The Senior Common Room of each college is a type of gentleman's club for the fellows and invited guests. Most colleges also have a Junior Common Room (for undergraduates) and a Middle (or Graduate - at Christ Church) Common Room for post-graduate students.
Congregation Convocation	The legislative body of the university Until recently, Convocation was the collective name for all MAs. Now all graduates of the university are members of Convocation. It dates, along with Congregation, from the 13 th century.
Custodian	A Christ Church term for the bowler-hatted gentlemen who oversee the management of tourists.
Dean	At Christ Church, the master of the college as well as head of the cathedral. At other colleges, the dean is the senior academic responsible for discipline (see Censor)
Don	A university tutor
Eights	The rowing races held during the summer for the title Head of the River
Encaenia	The ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre in June at which honorary degrees are presented
Exhibitioner	An undergraduate in receipt of an exhibition or prize towards his fees.
Faculty	A university department administering the examination of each subject
Gaudy	A celebratory meal to bring together graduates by matriculation years on a fairly regular basis
Go down	To leave the university, either for the vacation or permanently
Greats	The final examination in classics, or <i>Literae humaniores</i>
The House Manciple	Christ Church, from its Latin title, <i>Aedis Christi</i> , House of God The manciple was originally the chief purchaser of food (except for beer, bread and butter) in a college. The title is still used in some colleges; at Christ Church for the accountant to the Steward (or Domestic Bursar), and at Corpus Christi College for the Head Chef.
Matriculation	The ceremony which formally admits a student as a member of the university.
Mods	Moderations. The first public examinations sat by an undergraduate. In some subjects these are known as Prelims.
Oxford Union	NOT the Students' Union! The Oxford Union Society was formed in 1825 out of the Oxford United Debating Society. The Union has proved itself a training ground for political debate. Presidents have included Lord Hailsham, Michael Foot, Edward Heath, Tony Benn, Peter Jay, Tariq Ali, Benazir Bhutto, and Boris Johnson.
Porter	The lodge keeper in any Oxford college. Supplier of useful information, and usually in charge of the mail
Postmaster	A scholar at Merton College
Prelims	See Mods
Proctor	Disciplinary and administrative officer of the university, elected annually in rotation by the colleges.
Rusticated	Temporarily expelled from the university

Scholar Schools	An undergraduate in receipt of a scholarship towards his fees The faculties, final examinations, and the building in which examinations are held.
Scout	A college manservant. Originally scouts performed all sorts of duties for undergraduates including preparing breakfast, laying fires, arranging travel tickets, etc. but now the term applies to those who clean a student's room.
Sent down	Permanently expelled
Servitor	The lowest order of undergraduate. Servitors usually received tuition in return for performing menial tasks around college such as waiting on table. Servitors at Christ Church were abolished with the new constitution in 1867.
Steward	In most colleges, the man in charge of the college bar, but at Christ Church, the Steward is the Domestic Bursar in charge of all matters relating to bed and board, conferences, catering, etc.
Student	Since 1867, a Student at Christ Church (always spelt with an upper-case 'S') has been the same as a Fellow. Prior to this, a Student could be an undergraduate or a very senior member of the college in receipt of a stipend for life subject to a few basic requirements.
Subfusc	The 'uniform' required of any member of the university for official occasions including examinations. Usually a dark suit, white shirt, and white bow tie, worn with an academic gown and cap.
The Other Place	Cambridge
The Bird and Baby	The Eagle and Child pub on St Giles which was once the meeting place for the Inklings, a writing society whose members included J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis
The High	The High Street
Torpid	Rowing races which take place in February. The term 'torpid' originally referred to a college's second VIII. The races were less highly considered than the summer Eights.
Treasury	At Christ Church, the Estates Bursary; the office which looks after all the college's financial matters.
Visitor	All the older colleges have a Visitor to whom the Governing Body may turn in cases of insoluble dispute. At Christ Church, as a Royal foundation, the Visitor is the Monarch.

DEANS OF CHRIST CHURCH

Cardinal College	1939	John Lowe
1525 John Higden	1959	Cuthbert Aitken Simpson
	1969	Henry Chadwick
King Henry VIII College	1979	Eric William Heaton
1532 John Higden	1991	John Drury
1533 John Oliver	2003	Christopher Lewis [to be installed in October]
Christ Church		
1546 Richard Cox		
1553 Richard Marshall		
1559 George Carew		
1561 Thomas Sampson		
1565 Thomas Godwin		
1567 Thomas Cooper		
1570 John Piers		
1576 Toby Mathew		
1584 William James		
1596 Thomas Ravis		
1605 John King		
1611 William Goodwin		
1620 Richard Corbet		
1629 Brian Duppa		
1638 Samuel Fell		
1648 Edward Reynolds		
1651 John Owen		
1659 Edward Reynolds		
1660 George Morley		
1660 John Fell		
1686 John Massey		
1689 Henry Aldrich		
1711 Francis Atterbury		
1713 George Smalridge		
1719 Hugh Boulter		
1724 William Bradshaw		
1733 John Conybeare		
1756 David Gregory		
1767 William Markham		
1777 Lewis Bagot		
1783 Cyril Jackson		
1809 Charles Henry Hall		
1824 Samuel Smith		
1831 Thomas Gaisford		
1855 Henry George Liddell		
1892 Francis Paget		
1901 Thomas Banks Strong		
1920 Henry Julian White		
1934 Alwyn Terrell Petre Williams		

All the deans before the twentieth century, and one or two of those after 1900, appear in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and there are pictures of many hanging in the Hall. Behind High Table you will see, alongside Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII, Richard Corbet, Lewis Bagot, Brian Duppa, Francis Paget, Alwyn Williams, Cuthbert Simpson, Eric Heaton, John Fell, William Markham, and, the most recent addition, John Drury. Other deans can be seen around the walls (Gaisford, Liddell, Jackson, Chadwick, and Strong on the south side; King and Fell on the north.)